

Resources (DLNR) intend to gather information necessary to prepare a joint Federal/State environmental document (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement) for the proposed Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project. The United States Coast Guard, the owner of Lehua Island, intends to become a cooperating agency with us, for the purposes of preparing the environmental document. This document will address the proposal of eradicating non-native rodents and possibly non-native rabbits from Lehua as a means of restoring native seabirds, insects and coastal plants, some of which are threatened with extinction. In addition, the Service and the DLNR propose to implement preventative actions to keep non-native mammals from re-establishing on Lehua, and respond to any such re-introductions. The proposed project would take place on the island of Lehua, Kauai County, Hawaii and would be managed by the Service in cooperation with the DLNR.

The Service is furnishing this notice in order to: (1) Advise other Federal and State agencies, affected tribes, and the public of our intentions; (2) announce the initiation of a 40-day public scoping period; and (3) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to be included in the environmental document.

DATES: Written comments from all interested parties must be postmarked by 40 days from the date of publication. A public meeting is scheduled to be held in Lihue, Kauai on Wednesday June 9, 2004, at the Lihue Neighborhood Center from 7–9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Please address comments and requests to be added to the mailing list to Chris Swenson, Project Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3–122, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850, facsimile: (808) 792–9580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Project Biologists Chris Swenson or Katie Swift at the above address or telephone: (808) 792–9400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Lehua Island, located approximately 31 kilometers west of Kauai, Hawaii, is known for its beauty and biological diversity. Seventeen species of seabirds have been recorded from Lehua, including nesting Laysan and Black-footed Albatross, and Newell's Shearwaters, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Lehua, a designated State seabird sanctuary, is also home to several species of native coastal plants and insects. However, non-native rats are

also present on the island. Rats impact seabirds through predation and are known to have eliminated many seabird species from islands around the world. They also feed on native plants and insects and can suppress or eliminate many of these species as well. In addition, non-native rabbits were introduced to Lehua during or before the 1930s. On many islands, rabbits have decimated the vegetation and even competed with seabirds for use of burrows. After conducting biological surveys of Lehua and a careful examination of known impacts of rats and rabbits on island ecosystems, Service and DLNR biologists, in consultation with other experts, have concluded that the proposed eradication of rodents and rabbits is a prudent management action. Successful eradication would allow re-colonization and restoration of several species of plants and seabirds on Lehua. Following the proposed eradication, there could still be a threat of re-introduction of non-native mammals from grounded vessels and transport of people and materials to the island. Service and DLNR wildlife managers are proposing to have the capability to respond rapidly to any such introductions.

The Service is engaging in the proposed Lehua restoration project under the management authorities granted it by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 as amended (16 U.S.C. 703–712) and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 as amended (16 U.S.C. 742a–742j, not including 742 d–l). The DLNR is engaging in this project under the authorities of Hawaii Revised Statutes 183D–4 and 195D–5, which authorize it to manage wildlife sanctuaries and to manage and protect indigenous and endangered species and their associated ecosystems.

The Service and the DLNR are proposing to conduct an environmental review of the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project and prepare a joint Federal/State environmental document for impacts related to the ecosystem and the human environment. Alternatives for eradication may include the following methods or a combination of these methods: aerial broadcast of bait pellets containing rodenticides, hand broadcast of rodenticide pellets and/or placing rodenticides in bait stations for rat eradication; and shooting and/or trapping for rabbit eradication. Eradications could potentially be followed by monitoring the success of the removal actions and the response of native biota to alien species removal.

The environmental review will analyze the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, as well as a full range of reasonable alternatives, and the associated impacts of each alternative. Should information become available during the scoping process that indicates the likelihood of significant environmental impacts from the Lehua Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, the Service will proceed with preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). Otherwise, an environmental assessment will be prepared to determine whether an EIS is needed.

The Service and the DLNR are requesting written comments regarding the proposed action from interested individuals, organizations and agencies. Respondents should address concerns regarding potential environmental impacts to the human environment, applicable mitigation and reasonable alternatives they feel could be included in the environmental analysis. Additional information, including the time and location of the public meeting, any changes to the project scope, and availability of draft documents for review will be sent out via local and regional press releases and direct mailings.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act Regulations 40 CFR (1500–1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of the Service for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: April 15, 2004.

Carolyn A. Bohan,
*Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Region 1, Portland, Oregon.*

[FR Doc. 04–11075 Filed 5–14–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permits

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance of permits for marine mammals.

SUMMARY: The following permits were issued.

ADDRESSES: Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, subject to the requirements of the

Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203; fax (703) 358-2281.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Division of Management Authority, telephone (703) 358-2104.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that on the dates below, as authorized by the provisions of the the Marine Mammal

Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Fish and Wildlife Service issued the requested permit(s) subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Marine Mammals

Permit No.	Applicant	Receipt of application Federal Register notice	Permit issuance date
071799	Jennifer L. Miksis	68 FR 41167; July 10, 2003	March 31, 2004.
081346	Edward L. Keller	69 FR 5568; February 5, 2004	April 8, 2004.
081539	Lance K. Parks	69 FR 5569; February 5, 2004	April 12, 2004.
082026	Albert Cheramie	69 FR 5568; February 5, 2004	April 8, 2004.
082660	Thomas H. Viuf	69 FR 7979; February 20, 2004	April 14, 2004.

Dated: April 23, 2004.

Monica Farris,

Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 04-11083 Filed 5-14-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

Minerals Management Service Request for Public Nominations to the Royalty Policy Committee

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Director of the Minerals Management Service (MMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, is requesting nominations for three public representatives to serve on the Department's Royalty Policy Committee (RPC). These nominations may originate from State and local governments, universities, organizations, or individuals, and they may include self-nominations. Nominees should have the expertise in royalty management issues necessary to represent the public interest. The nomination package must include an updated copy of the nominee's resume or biography including their mailing and e-mail addresses. The MMS is committed to the Department's diversity policy, and nominators are requested to consider diversity when making nominations. Members serve without pay but will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when attending official RPC meetings. Reimbursements will be calculated in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations as implemented by the Department.

DATES: Submit nominations on or before June 16, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations to Gary Fields, Coordinator, Royalty Policy Committee, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 300B2, Denver, CO 80225-0165.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Fields, Program Analysis Office, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 300B2, Denver, CO 80225-0165, telephone number (303) 231-3102, fax number (303) 231-3194, e-mail gary.fields@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To increase effectiveness, reduce costs, and promote fresh ideas, the MMS created three charter committees under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to advise the Secretary and top Department officials on minerals policy and operational issues. The RPC, the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee, and the OCS Scientific Committee now fulfill the formal advisory functions previously performed by the Minerals Management Advisory Board, which has been disbanded. The RPC provides advice related to the performance of discretionary functions under the laws governing the Department's management of Federal and Indian mineral leases and revenues. The RPC reviews and comments on revenue management and other mineral-related policies and provides a forum to convey views representative of mineral lessees, operators, revenue payors, revenue recipients, governmental agencies, and the interested public. The locations and dates of future RPC meetings and other information will be published in the **Federal Register** and posted on the Internet at http://www.mrm.mms.gov/Laws_R_D/RoyPC/RoyPC.htm. Meetings are open to the public without advance registration, on a space available basis. The public may make statements during the meetings, to the extent time permits, and file written statements with the RPC

for its consideration; copies of these written statements should be submitted to Mr. Fields. The RPC meetings are conducted under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 1) and the Office of Management and Budget (Circular No. A-63, revised).

All correspondence, records, or information received in response to this Notice are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. All information provided will be made public unless the respondent identifies which portions are proprietary. Please highlight the proprietary portions or mark the page(s) that contain proprietary data. Proprietary information is protected by the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1733), the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4)), the Indian Minerals Development Act of 1982 (25 U.S.C. 2103) and Department regulations (43 CFR part 2).

Dated: May 11, 2004.

Cathy J. Hamilton,

Acting Associate Director for Minerals Revenue Management.

[FR Doc. 04-11100 Filed 5-14-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee; Notice of Renewal

The Secretary of Labor has determined that renewal of the charter of the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC) is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed upon the Commissioner of Labor Statistics by 29 U.S.C. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. This determination follows consultation with the